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West Europeans Debate CSCE Tactics

The intransigence shown by the Soviets since the European security conference resumed on January 20 has been disappointing to the West Europeans, who had hoped that Moscow would be forthcoming enough to enable the conference to end this summer.

In trying to determine the wisest tactical course to follow, the West Europeans are faced with a dilemma. They would like to take a tough stand in order to preserve as many Western negotiating goals as possible. Yet it is difficult to do so convincingly since some of the West Europeans--most notably the French in the Brezhnev-Giscard communique of December 7--have made known their feeling that the conference is making enough progress to justify a conclusion, perhaps even at summit level.

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The British have widespread support for the suggestion that the allies should no longer insist that East and West must provide advance notice of major military *movements* as a "confidence-building measure." The West Europeans want to bargain hard for measures covering military *maneuvers*, however. At a recent meeting of the EC Nine, the political directors proposed establishing a negotiating link between progress on these measures and progress on the security principles of importance to the Soviets. The Nine reportedly believe that progress on principles

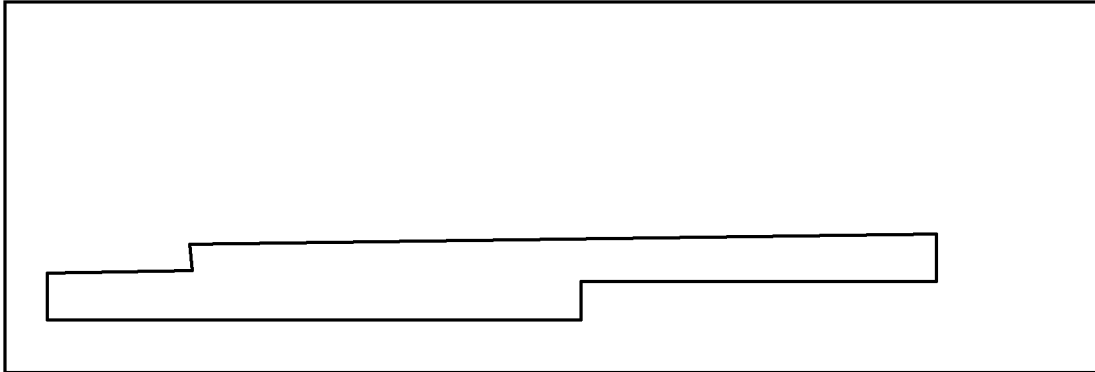
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is the only lever available to encourage Soviet agreement on confidence-building measures, and they think the lever should be used soon.



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